

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 11-20 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for electronically publishing an organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to do business with the organization and that can create individual lines of communication between the organization and the vendors, wherein the method reduces an amount of paperwork and time required for the organization to conduct business transactions with the vendors over traditional methods, the present method comprising the steps of:

    categorizing the organization's requirements into categories that are easily recognizable to the vendors, wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, and further wherein an item is a product or service required by the organization;

    electronically publishing the organization's requirements in a publication that is dedicated to the organization, wherein each item within the categories includes a name, a description, a contact person and one or more relevant dates, wherein a name of the contact person is presented as a hyperlink to an e-mail account of the contact person;

    posting all forms and information necessary for the vendors to conduct business with the organization, including requests for information, quotes and proposals, in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors and submission of an edited form to the organization electronically; and,

    creating a registration section that allows the vendors to register with the organization, wherein after registration the vendors can receive electronic notifications concerning any item specified by the vendors during registration; wherein the organization's requirements, the forms and information necessary to conduct business with the organization, and the registration section are included in the electronic publication.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic publication is accessible to the organization and the vendors and further comprising the step of:  
updating the description of an item and the forms necessary for the vendors, by the organization at any time.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
posting to the publication drawings, figures and pictures for viewing and possible downloading by the vendors, wherein the drawings, figures and pictures aid in conveying the organization's requirements to the vendors.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the categories of the organization's requirements include construction, services and supplies.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic notification received by vendors that registered with the organization comprises an e-mail message, an instant message, a text message or a facsimile.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating a registration section further comprises requiring the vendors to provide a preferred contact method that the organization will use for electronic notification purposes, and wherein the preferred contact method is used to send a confirmation message to the vendors confirming successful registration.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
creating an administration section that allows the organization to organize information relating to the vendors, including the creation of mailing lists that are used to send the electronic notifications to the vendors, wherein access to the administration

section is restricted to members of the organization.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the organization is able to add and delete information and pages to the electronic publication at any time.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a single category or an individual item comprise multiple pages within the publication and the organization is able to specify the order in which the pages are presented for viewing.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the publication comprises a home page and multiple other pages, and all of the other pages include a link that will return the vendors to the home page.

11. (Currently amended) A database that is ~~An electronic publication~~ stored and executed on at least one computer for publishing an organization's requirements that provides vendors with information needed to do business with the organization and that can create individual lines of communication between the organization and the vendors, wherein the ~~electronic publication~~ database can be published to reduce[[s]] an amount of paperwork and time required by the vendors to conduct business with the organization, the ~~electronic publication~~ database comprising:

a categorized posting of the organization's requirements, wherein the categories are easily recognizable to the vendors, and further wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, an item being either a product or a service required by the organization;

multiple fields for each item within the categories, wherein the multiple fields include a name, a description, a contact person and one or more relevant dates relating to the item, wherein the contact person has knowledge of the item and a name of the contact person is presented as a hyperlink to an e-mail account of the contact person;

all forms and information necessary for the vendors to conduct business with the organization, including a requests for information form, and quotes and proposal forms, wherein the forms are presented in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors and submission of edited forms to the organization electronically; and,

a registration section that allows the vendors to register with the organization, wherein after registration the vendors can receive electronic notifications concerning any item specified by the vendors during registration.

12. (Currently amended) The database ~~electronic publication~~ of claim 11, wherein the publication is accessible to the organization and the vendors and further wherein the organization is able to update the description of any item and the forms necessary for the vendors, at any time.

13. (Currently amended) The database ~~electronic publication~~ of claim 11, further comprising:

one or more drawings, figures or pictures for viewing and possible downloading by the vendors, wherein the drawings, figures and pictures aid in conveying the organization's requirements to the vendors.

14. (Currently amended) The database ~~electronic publication~~ of claim 11, wherein the categories of the organization's requirements include construction, services and supplies.

15. (Currently amended) The database ~~electronic publication~~ of claim 11, wherein the electronic notifications received by vendors comprise an e-mail message, an instant message, a text message or a facsimile.

16. (Currently amended) The database ~~electronic publication~~ of claim 11, wherein

the registration section leads the vendors through a registration process that includes requesting a preferred contact method from the vendors that the organization will use for electronic notification purposes, and wherein the preferred contact method is used to send a confirmation message to the vendors.

17. (Currently amended) The database ~~electronic publication~~ of claim 11, further comprising an administration section that allows the organization to organize information and forms received from the vendors including the ability to create vendor mailing lists, wherein access to the administration section is restricted to members of the organization.

18. (Currently amended) The database ~~electronic publication~~ of claim 11, wherein the organization is able to add and delete information and pages to the electronic publication at any time.

19. (Currently amended) The database ~~electronic publication~~ of claim 11, wherein a single category or a single item comprises multiple pages and the organization is able to specify the order in which the pages are presented to the vendor.

20. (Currently amended) The database ~~electronic publication~~ of claim 11, wherein the publication comprises a home page and multiple other pages, and all of the other pages include a link that will return a viewer to the home page.